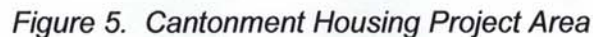


USAG-AK has proposed to drill 93 test borings in association with a new family housing project on Fort Wainwright (Figure 5). This subsurface exploration will be conducted with a track-mounted drill rig with an 8in. diameter hollow auger. In order to accomplish this testing, some portions of the project area were cleared of trees with a chainsaw. Existing trails and open areas will be used for access to the extent possible. A portion of the project area had been cleared of trees and vegetation prior to pedestrian reconnaissance and testing.



In June 2004 an archaeological survey crew, comprised of between four and five archaeologists employed by CEMML, conducted a pedestrian survey of the proposed undertaking. The survey area included 90 acres of land, approximately 50 percent of which was previously disturbed through clearing.

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Two historic sites, neither of which is eligible for the National Register, were identified during this survey. During pedestrian survey the remains of a structure (FAI-01603) were noted in the previously cleared area. The area was shovel skimmed, mapped, and four shovel tests were excavated. No additional cultural material was recovered from the testing. South of the structural remains, several cans were noted protruding from disturbed sediments on the edge of the cleared area, bordering a dry gulley (FAI-01604). Through use of a metal detector and subsurface testing, an area approximately 10m x 3m was identified as containing historic and modern cans, metal, and other debris.

Cultural Resources

There were no known historic or archaeological sites located in the vicinity of the project area prior to survey and testing in 2004. In terms of the Fort Wainwright Main Post, previous cantonment area surveys conducted in settings comparable to the current project area in terrain and vegetation have failed to locate cultural resources (Reynolds 1983, 1984, 1985; Steele 1982, 1983). However, historic research regarding World War II and homestead activities on some lands currently within the cantonment area, including the project area, indicated that there was a potential for cultural resources to be located on the subject parcel. The current project area is located within the original 1939 boundaries of Ladd Field, but is not located within the current boundaries of the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark (Price 2004). Based on a circa 1942 map of Ladd Field, the general project area contained a dog kennel and a veterinary hospital. Additionally, there were no known homesteads located in the project area, though the vicinity has been identified as a possible 1913 era homesteading area (Price 2002).

Two historic archaeological sites were located during the survey of the test boring project area. The Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4) were applied to both sites, and neither retains enough integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A description of each site is presented below.

FAI-01603

Latitude:

Longitude:

Determination: Not eligible

Site FAI-01603 is located north of

, and east of , on a flat area several meters above the Chena River and within the main Fort Wainwright cantonment. The UTM coordinates for the site are:

. This site is located approximately 350m northwest of the Chena River. The partial remains of a small structure (approximately 5ft x 5ft) were found here (Figure 6). The remains had been previously impacted by heavy machinery and the remaining timbers are essentially pulverized. Some crushed mortar or cement was present on the outside of the structural remains. Testing within and outside of the structure did not produce any additional cultural material.



Figure 6. Site FAI-01603, facing south

Recommendation

The remains have lost integrity, and due to their condition it is not possible to determine what the previous function of the structure may have been or its age. Additionally, the paucity of cultural material indicates that FAI-01603 does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region. This property is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

FAI-01604

Latitude:

Longitude:

Determination: Not eligible

Site FAI-01604 is a small trash dump located north of

, and east of , on a flat area several meters above the Chena River and within the main Fort Wainwright cantonment. The UTM coordinates for the site are:

. This site is located approximately 250m northwest of the Chena River. The trash dump is located on the edge of an area cleared by heavy machinery, at the top of a dry gulley (Figure 7). This area has been impacted by heavy machinery and it appears as though the materials were deposited in this area or pushed to their current location from nearby by previous disturbances. A metal detector and shovel tests were used to define the size of the site as 10m x 3m. Use of the metal detector in the gulley behind the site did not produce any evidence of the can dump extending down into the gulley.



Figure 7. Site FAI-01604, facing east

Subsurface testing verified that the sediments in this area were disturbed, though intact deposits were present approximately 15cm below the current, disturbed surface. Undisturbed sediments contained charcoal bits and other organic material; however, charcoal was also noted on the surface of the disturbed ground throughout the project area and is likely natural. One of three shovel tests produced additional materials; several pieces of bottle glass and can fragments were found between 15-20cm below the surface. Historic era cans, of the hole-in-top type, with crimped seams dating to the turn of the century or just after, were found in the disturbed sediments. A portion of a bottleneck with an intact collar was also found. This bottle fragment had no seams visible and was not screw top, likely dating it to a pre-1903 manufacture. Machine cut nails, modern wire rope, modern can fragments, undiagnostic bottle glass, and a saw-cut piece of large mammal bone were also found in the disturbed sediments. It is estimated that 90 percent of the site has been disturbed.

Recommendations

Site FAI-01604 is the remains of a small, highly disturbed trash dump. Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing both revealed disturbed deposits, and the site does not retain

any integrity. Additionally, the condition of the remains at FAI-01604 indicates that the site does not contain additional information that is important to our understanding of the prehistory or history of the region. This property is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Results

Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing of the proposed project area identified two historic archaeological sites (FAI-01603 and FAI-01604) within the boundaries of the proposed drilling area. All other previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties in the Fort Wainwright cantonment area fall outside the proposed project area. USAG-AK has determined that both FAI-01603 and FAI-01604 are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore no historic properties will be affected by the proposed project.

2.3 Tanana Flats Trespass Cabin Demolition

USAG-AK has proposed to demolish a trespass cabin located on Army lands in the TFTA. The cabin is located on _____, a tributary of the Tanana River (Figure 8). The structure will be demolished by dismantling it in place with tools such as chainsaws, axes and mallets. No heavy machinery will be used. Trash will be removed from the cabin and its surroundings by boat. Burnable materials that cannot be removed will be burned on site.

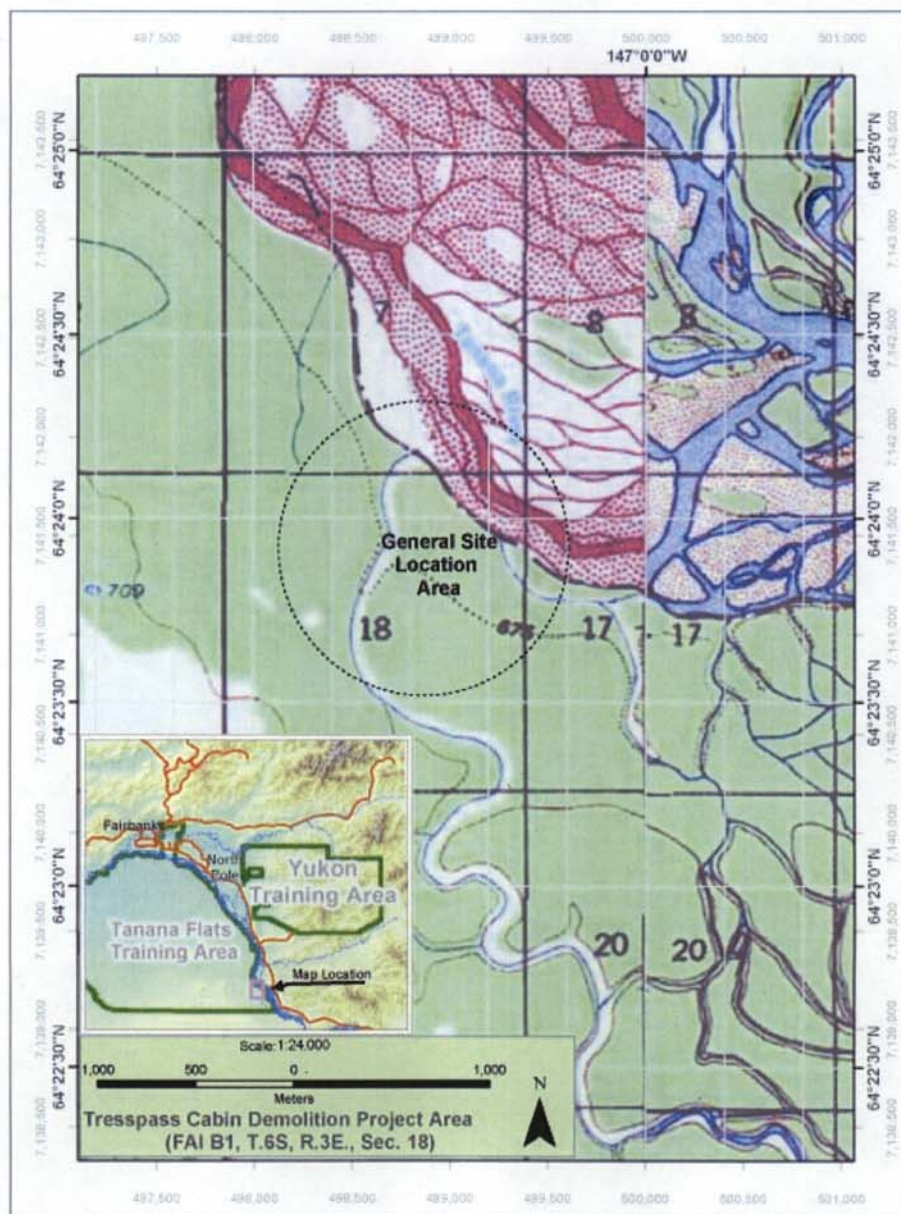


Figure 8. Trespass Cabin Demolition Project Area

Survey and Field Methods

In June 2004, an archaeological survey crew, comprised of the post archaeologist and the trespass cabin demolition project manager, employed by CEMML, conducted an

investigation of the trespass cabin described above. The survey area included approximately 1 acre of land surrounding the cabin location, including the cabin.

The cabin was recorded, measured and photographed. Parallel pedestrian transects spaced at 20m were walked in all areas that were not deemed too wet or too steep (>40°) to contain cultural material. Approximately 1 acre of land surrounding the cabin was pedestrian surveyed. One two-seater outhouse is associated with the trespass cabin as well as a campfire ring located between the cabin and the creek bank. There is a variety of modern trash such as rope, cans, plastic wrap, plastic jugs, and other materials scattered around the cabin, outhouse, and campfire area.

Two shovel tests were excavated in the vicinity of the proposed demolition project. One shovel test was excavated 5m north of the cabin. Modern (less than 50 years old) metal can fragments and chunks of charcoal were found just below the vegetative mat. A second shovel test was excavated on a terrace above the creek and west of the cabin. No cultural remains were located in the second shovel test, though chunks of charcoal were encountered. It is likely that the charcoal in both shovel tests is a result of forest fires. Shovel tests were approximately 40cm x 40cm, and were screened through ¼in. hardware cloth.

Cultural Resources

The project area is located away from any known, ground-based training activities in the TFTA. Additionally, no evidence of military use of the immediate vicinity was noted during survey activities. Historic, non-military uses of the TFTA are not well known. It is unlikely that the Training Area was ever seriously explored for mineral deposits. The area consists primarily of bogs and muskegs with silt and sand deposits below. There are likely no valuable mineral deposits located within the Training Area other than, perhaps, on buttes or other hilly areas (Neely 2001). One major known mining era cultural resource within the TFTA is the Bonnifield Trail. This trail begins at the south end of Cushman Street in Fairbanks and crosses the Tanana Flats to the headwaters of Bonnifield Creek on the northern margins of the Alaska Range. There may be several roadhouses within the Training Area associated with the Trail, but they have not yet been located on the ground (Neely 2003). The Bonnifield Trail is over 25 miles west of the current project area. Homestead research to date has uncovered little regarding the TFTA (Price 2002).

The cabin slated for demolition is modern and less than 50 years old, but it has been assigned an AHRS number to facilitate a determination of eligibility and for tracking purposes. The Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4) were applied to the cabin and it has been determined not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are no other known cultural resources in the vicinity of the project area.

FAI-01607

Latitude:

Longitude:

Determination: Not eligible

This site is a one-room log cabin located on the east side of (Figure 9). The cabin is located on a flat terrace about 2m above the creek and 30m east of the creek. The UTM coordinates for the site are:

. The cabin is located in a mature spruce forest with an understory

primarily consisting of rose, horsetail, ferns and mosses. The cabin is approximately 18ft long, 17ft wide, and 9ft tall at the roof ridge. The logs used to construct the cabin were chainsaw cut and retain most of their bark on the interior and exterior. The logs are saddle notched at the corners. Moss and fiberglass were used as chinking with small diameter (1-3in.) branches nailed over the seams between logs. The cabin rests directly on the ground on large (16in. diameter) sill logs. The roof of the cabin is covered in corrugated metal roofing over milled lumber decking on 4-7in. diameter purlins. The purlins are the only logs in the structure that have been peeled. The door of the cabin is manufactured. There is one window each on the south (single lite fixed sash) and west (double single lite horizontal sliding sash) walls.



Figure 9. Trespass cabin FAI-01607, facing south

Recommendations

According to the family that claims ownership of this cabin, it was built in 1959. However, based on the condition of the logs, it may have been built even more recently. The one outbuilding associated with the cabin is a two-hole outhouse constructed of plywood and located north of the cabin. This cabin, based on appearances and purported construction date, is less than 50 years old. Additionally, it does not meet any of the criteria for eligibility and is, therefore, not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Results

Pedestrian survey and subsurface testing of the proposed project area identified one modern cabin (FAI-01607). All other previously recorded archaeological sites or historic properties in the TFTA fall outside the proposed project area. USAG-AK has determined that FAI-01607 is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and therefore, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed demolition.